

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04806 181408Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----028434 190920Z /21

R 181318Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9304
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SY
SUBJ: EMBASSY BEIRUT CONTACT WITH SYRIANS

REF: DAMASCUS 4688

1. WHILE WE HAVE CONTACT WITH A HEALTHY SPREAD OF GOL OFFICIALS, FELLOW DIPLOMATS, MUSLIM LEADERS, AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA WAR LORDS, THERE IS ONE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT HERE WITH WHOM WE HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACT. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS THE ELEMENT THAT IS STILL CALLING THE SHOTS HERE, NAMELY, THE SYRIANS. THE ANOMALY IS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY IDEOLOGICAL REASONS THE SYRIANS HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN BEIRUT. THE RESULT IS THAT THERE IS NO SENIOR SYRIAN OFFICIAL IN LEBANON WITH WHOM WE ARE IN CONTACT AND WHOM THE AMBASSADOR CAN TAKE ASIDE AND EXPLAIN U.S. VIEWS TO.

2. ASSUMING THAT THE SYRIANS WANT, AS THEY TELL US, TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH US, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT AMBASSADOR SEELYE MIGHT BE ABLE TO POINT OUT TO THE SYRIANS THE EFFECT OF THIS ANOMALY AND CONVEY
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04806 181408Z

A REQUEST TO THE GOS THAT IT DESIGNATE ONE OF THE SENIOR SYRIAN OFFICERS IN THE BEIRUT AREA TO ACCEPT DIRECT CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER AND HIS EMBASSY AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WE WOULD HAVE WITH SYRIAN AMBASSADORS IN OTHER POSTS. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO DISCUSS WITH RESPONSIBLE SYRIANS ON THE SCENE OUR OWN

PERSPECTIVE ON THE SYRIAN POSTURE IN BEIRUT AND
OUR ON-THE-SCENE ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL
EFFECTS OF SYRIAN ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS ON THE
CIVILIAN POPULATION.
KINSOLVING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-1153
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780845/aaaablob.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 793fe360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 4688
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1686400
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY BEIRUT CONTACT WITH SYRIANS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LE, US, SY
To: STATE DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/793fe360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014